

COVID-19 Mandate Protests 2022-02-19 1930 ET

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Date: Sun, 20 Feb 2022 00:30:02 +0000
Attachments: COVID Mandate Protest Map National DCO.pdf (841.71 kB)

PROTECTED A

DL – 3 – Releasable to Authorized Organizations and Key Decision Makers

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Update as of 2022-02-19 1900 ET

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New information in red below

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Bottom Line / Summary:

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~ **Pac Highway – Border Alert** issued at 1600 ET indicating a service disruption. Longer term outlook and early indication is the RCMP hope to have roadway resumption later this evening. Aldergrove will be the POE with extended hours if necessary. Abbotsford-Huntingdon has readiness state.

o~ Traffic has been redirected to Douglas for Travellers and Aldergrove and Abbotsford-Huntingdon for Commercial.

o~ Current BWTs:

§~ Douglas: 51 minutes

§~ Aldergrove: Traveller 40 mins / Commercial 51 mins

§~ Abbotsford-Huntingdon: No delay

- ~ **Northgate** – No impact to the POE. Heavy RCMP presence in the area. Protest stage area near POE continues to be set up with approx. 20 vehicles located on the private land.
- ~ **North Portal** – No impact to the POE; 53 private vehicles have congregated on private property 6 kms west of the POE. Heavy RCMP presence in the area with many checkpoints and patrols.
- ~ **Osoyoos** – Significant peaceful protest activity (± 500-600 vehicles) near the POE; no operational disruptions. 6 RCMP vehicles and 12 RCMP members are on site.
- ~ **Kingsgate** – Significant protest activity (± 120 vehicles) near the POE; minimal operational impact. RCMP on site.
 - o~ At 1800 ET, traffic entering the US was temporarily disrupted for ± 10 mins when 40-50 protestors approached the US border. The protestors were turned back into the POE's turn around lane. Superintendent on site engaged and the protestors have returned to their site off of CBSA property. Traffic is now moving in both directions with single lane alternating.
- ~ **One** new Enhanced Vigilance Exams at Prescott, ON – two travellers directed back to the US under EA
- ~ Peaceful protests in the vicinity of but not directly affecting the following POEs:
 - o~ Ambassador Bridge
 - o~ Osoyoos
 - o~ Paterson
 - o~ Kingsgate (minimal disruption)
 - o~ North Portal
 - o~ Northgate
 - o~ Pigeon River (concluded 1800 ET)

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REGIONAL POE IMPACTS

No protest activity at or near POEs reported in Atlantic, Quebec and Greater Toronto Area Regions. POJ presence nearby most POEs.

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QUEBEC REGION (QUE)

All Quebec POEs are open, with no protests reported at or near them.

Lacolle

- ~ Planned protest did not materialize. SQ maintained checkpoints in the vicinity of the POE.

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NORTHERN ONTARIO REGION (NOR)

Police presence ongoing at Cornwall, Lansdowne, Prescott and Sault Ste. Marie.

Pigeon River

- ~ Protest in vicinity of POE; no operational impact and no impact to traffic.
- ~ As of 1800 ET, the protest concluded.
- ~ At approx. 1420 ET OPP intercepted a convoy (3 transport trucks and ± 10 vehicles) at the tourist information center north of the POE. The convoy was diverted from the highway into the tourist centre parking lot where they remain peacefully protesting. 6 OPP cruisers are onsite in the north bound/outbound traffic lane.

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Prescott

- ~ One new enhanced vigilance exam. BSOs referred two travellers who indicated they were entering to travel to the Byward Market in Ottawa for one. Their hotel reservations were within the red zone area of the city. The travellers were advised that under the current OIC's they would not be allowed to attend that area of the city. During the secondary examination, BSOs discovered an unusual quantity of warm winter clothing for the declared weekend trip and heated blankets. The travellers claimed they were not planning on attending the protests. Two travellers were issued a Direction to Return to the US under the *Emergencies Act*.

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SOUTHERN ONTARIO REGION (SOR)

Ongoing police presence at Ambassador Bridge, Blue Water Bridge, Windsor Tunnel, Peace Bridge, Rainbow Bridge and near Queenston Bridge.

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Ambassador Bridge

- ~ Protestors present on Riverside Drive. At this time the protest is not disrupting operations. s.38 there is potential the group may make their way to the Wyandotte entrance to the bridge.
- ~ Increased presence of OPP on-site with the potential of protestors making their way to the bridge – staff has been briefed.

Blue Water Bridge

- ~ As of 1730 ET, HWY 402 has reopened. The slow roll protest has concluded with no impact to the POE.
- ~ As of 13:30, HWY 402 is closed from KERWOOD Rd. to HWY 401 due to winter weather conditions.
- ~ No sign of the potential protest activity as of yet (slow roll through Sarnia). OPP are monitoring and will have officers on site.

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Windsor Tunnel

- ~ One protestor walked past the exit of the POE waving a Canadian flag. No indication of additional protestors at this time. Increased vigilance for further signs of possible disruptions. No operational impacts.

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Peace Bridge

- ~ 6 protest vehicles driving on the Niagara parkway near Commercial Operations.
- ~ Protest activity today did not affect the POE. A slow roll departed a site near the Peace Bridge heading Toronto bound.

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Queenston Bridge

- ~ Unconfirmed reports of possible protest Sunday, February 20, 2022. No details.

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Rainbow Bridge

- ~ No protest activity and no impact.

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PRAIRIE REGION (PRA)

Northgate:

- ~ Traffic volumes are light and no operational impact has been reported.
- ~ Northgate operations close at 1700 CT. RCMP will maintain a presence at the POE overnight.
- ~ A large contingent of RCMP are present at the POE and in the area. RCMP have several checkpoints in place on rural roads as well as on Hwy just north of the POE and have increased patrol units.
- ~ At 15:30 ET, CBC media was on site for about an hour near the Northgate POE filming and interviewing protestors. Film crews approached the CBSA upon arrival and were directed to set up outside of CBSA property.

- ~ Small gathering (± 20 vehicles) remains on a private land near the POE Northgate.

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North Portal

- ~ No current impact to the POE
- ~ 53 private vehicles have congregated on private property 6 kms west of the POE.
- ~ Very heavy RCMP presence at the POE and surrounding area with marked and unmarked LE vehicles, various police resource units and equipment and specialty use vehicles. umerous roadway check stops for monitoring vehicle / people movement in the area. There is a check stop 400 m and 10 kms west of POE and on edge of community on east side of POE as well as various rural roads. RCMP monitoring a group of approximately 20 protest vehicles nearing their check point eastbound on Sask Hwy #39 which is the roadway to reach POE North Portal.

Emerson

- ~ No impact to CBSA operations. POJ maintaining presence in the area of the POE.
- ~ Unconfirmed reports thee may be a blockade of the CN line at Rainy River, ON. NOR intel has been informed. The rail line at Rainy River, ON re-enters Canada at Sprague, MB so if the information is accurate, there may be potential for disruption at the line at Sprague, MB.

Coutts

- ~ No impact to CBSA operations.
- ~ Protest activities still on-going 18km from the POE at Milk River.
- ~ RCMP Command centre on site. RCMP has presence at POE however most members are now on patrol in immediate area and not at the POE.
- ~ RCMP expecting an increase to protester population over the weekend but protest is no longer on highway. Traffic is moving freely. RCMP are prepared to intervene immediately to keep highway open.

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PACIFIC REGION (PAC)

Pacific Highway

- ~ A Border Alert advising of a service disruption was issued at 1600 ET. The POE remains open and staffed however is inaccessible to travellers due to RCMP closure of the north and southbound lanes of the highway. Traffic has been redirected to Douglas for Travellers and Aldergrove and Huntingdon for Commercial.
- ~ All BSOs have been briefed regarding ongoing protest activities. Most have been redeployed to neighbouring POEs.
- ~ At 1500 PT, due to increasing protest activities, RCMP closed the north and southbound highway (intersection of 176th and 8th Ave) access to the POE. A large convoy of 100+ vehicles was traveling in the direction of the POE.
- ~ As of 10:50 PST, a small demonstration (± 10-15 participants) continues near the POE at the intersection of 176th street and 8th Ave. The Port of Entry does not have a direct view of protest activities. Passenger vehicles are still lined along 176th St between 8th Ave and 16th Ave.
- ~ RCMP continue to have a checkpoint setup with vehicles and concrete barriers to restrict the lane access.

Kingsgate

- ~ Significant protest activity near POE; traffic entering the US was temporarily disrupted for ± 10 mins due to protestors' activities however is now moving in both directions with single lane alternating. Minimal operational impact. RCMP on site.
- ~ At 1800 ET, 40-50 protestors proceeded south towards the US border. CBP engaged and placed several of their officers at the line. Some protestors went around existing barricades and entered the CBSA turnaround lane approximately 5 meters from the port and were met by a Superintendent. The protestors agreed to remove themselves from the turnaround lane. They remained at the US port of entry for approximately 10 minutes and then moved back to their original protest area where they now remain.
- ~ At 1540 ET, protesters from the Creston, BC and Cranbrook, BC areas have gathered about 100 metres north of the POE. An estimated 120 vehicles and 240 of people are on site, with more slowly flowing in. They are currently blocking one lane all the way over the bridge to Duty free and appear to be allowing one lane of alternating traffic. This protest is expected to last into the evening and beyond. Social media posts are calling for people to camp out for Family Day weekend. At 1630 ET, one RCMP member attended and cleared traffic off the bridge. RCMP have left site but are available as needed.
- ~ Cranbrook and Creston RCMP have been engaged.
- ~ Creston RCMP are on site. US CBP has also been notified;

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Paterson

- ~ The protest at Paterson has grown significantly as of 1535 ET. A convoy from the East has arrived totaling the current numbers to approximately 75 vehicles and 150 people. All protesters remain off but adjacent to CBSA property. One lane remains clear of protester vehicles, however several persons and large crowds are on the highway. Traffic is cautiously flowing in both directions. Protesters have set up several tents, cooking areas, a band, several minors and families on site. CBSA operations are running normally at this time.
- ~ Protestors have also arrived on the US side at the USCBP Frontier, consisting of 10 vehicles and 20 protesters. Consistent with previous information received of planned protest activity on the US side of the POE from 13:00 – 19:00 PT in support of ongoing Canadian demonstrations.

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Osoyoos

- ~ Significant protest activity near the POE; no operational disruptions. 6 RCMP vehicles and 12 RCMP members are on site.

- ~ As of 1730 ET, there are ± 500-600 vehicles gathered near the POE. Protestors are parked on the shoulder of the highway and in a farmers field 150 m north of the POE. A stage had been step up in the broker's area and people are gathering in the broker's parking lot.
- ~ USCBP reported that the support group of ± 4 vehicles paraded along the highway on the US side honking their horns and dispersed.
- ~ An unknown media source has set up a camera off the CBSA property near 2nd Avenue. Food trucks and other supports are arriving and setting up on the shoulder of the highway. More demonstrators have arrived and more are expected to arrive shortly.
- ~ Organizers have shared a safety plan with operational Superintendent. They intend to be peaceful and allow traffic to flow. Local RCMP have also been engaged and have periodically been driving to the POE to check in.

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Roosville

- ~ At 1528 ET, a rolling convoy of ± 20 vehicles arrived and did a u turn just north of the POE. The group has left the area for the time being.

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PROTEST EVENTS

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ONGOING (Impacting or in Proximity to CBSA POE)	Planned UNCONFIRMED
·~ PAC Highway – In the vicinity of the POE; POE impacted ·~ Kingsgate (Feb 19-20) ·~ Osoyoos (Feb 19-21) ·~ Pigeon River (concluded) ·~ Ambassador Bridge ·~ North Portal / Northgate, SK (in proximity to POE) ·~ Paterson – North of POE	<u>February 20</u> ·~ Fort Frances & Rainy River – tip received of possible railway blockage at Baudette Crossing (US) ·~ ·~ Peace Bridge (US Side) for Feb 19-20, and DC Convoy plans to depart on Feb 24. (Unconfirmed – the 2 events may be related) ·~
·~ USA ·~ Kingsgate for 12:00 PST on Feb 19th	

~ Paterson for 13:00 PST on Feb 19 th ~	
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Intelligence Landscape

BLUF: At this time (19 February 2022:1200), the overall threat to CBSA officers and infrastructure is still low, but caution should be exercised in light of recent law enforcement actions and reporting surrounding IMVE messaging and activity. ITAC assesses that the terrorism threat to uniformed personnel is medium.

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Enhanced Vigilance Examinations

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As of 1900 ET, **one** new Enhanced Vigilance Examinations reported

POE	Vehicle #	Enhanced vigilance exams (PAX #)	Direct Back			Allowed to Leave	Granted Entry	Comments
			Under Quarantine Act	Under Emergencies Act	Under EA and QQ			
EVEs reported after Emergencies Act implementation (February 16th onward)								
Prescott	1	2	1~	2	1~	1~	1~	Feb 19: BSOs referred two travellers who indicated they were entering to travel to the Byward Market in Ottawa for one. Their hotel reservations were within the red zone area of the city. The travellers were advised that under the

								current OIC's they would not be allowed to attend that area of the city. During the secondary examination , BSOs discovered an unusual quantity of warm winter clothing for the declared weekend trip and heated blankets. The travellers claimed they were not planning on attending the protests. Two travellers were issued a Direction to Return to the US under the <i>Emergencie s Act.</i>
Lacolle	10	13	2				11	Feb 18: POE EVE Blitz Operation - Over the course of the day, BSOs increased referrals of US travellers for enhanced vigilance exams as part of an operational blitz. Two US citizens

								were directed back as they did not meet <i>Quarantine Act</i> requirements; no concerns with their reasons for travel. The remaining 11 were granted entry; no concerns with reason for travel.
Total (post EA)	10	13	2	2			11	
EVEs reported prior to Emergencies Act implementation (until February 15, 2022 2100 ET)								
Blue Water Bridge	1	2				2		Feb 15: Two FN's arrived with intent of attending the Ottawa Trucker protest. Both employed by Person A. Personal Info. [REDACTED] – and did not meet entry requirements. Allowed to leave granted.
Fort Erie, SOR	1	2				2		Feb 13: Two U.S. citizens were arrested after two undeclared firearms were discovered during secondary

								inspection, which were seized. The driver made a wrong turn as both travellers are protesters who were destined to the protest in Buffalo. Travellers were each issued an Allowed to leave.
Sault Ste. Marie, NOR	2	2			1		1	U.S. citizen attempting to join protest in Ottawa. Feb 5: Cdn citizen expressing extremist views refused to comply with COVID entry requirements and ran the port
Prescott, NOR	1	1					1	Unvaccinated Cdn citizen/US resident has been directed to quarantine by CBSA and PHAC
Lansdowne, NOR	1	2					2	Journalists looking to document the protests in Ottawa. Provided necessary credentials and had equipment consistent

								with their stated purpose of travel.
Douglas, PAC	10	21			18	3		Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Pac Hwy Traffic, PAC	2	3			3			Wrong turns attempting to protest at Peace Arch Park.
Total (pre EA)	18	33			22	7	4	

*Traveller directed back to the US for not meeting QA obligations. BSO is satisfied that traveller was not entering Canada to attend the protests.

**Traveller met QA obligations and is being directed back to the US under the EA. BSO identified that traveller was entering Canada to attend protests.

***Traveller directed back to the US for not meeting QA obligations. BSO identified that traveller was also entering Canada to attend protests.

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OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND MEDIA

~ Two NOTAMs issued on 19 February 2022 restricting airspace over the protest in North Portal, SK and Northgate, SK. The airspace restriction is in place until 25 February.

~ NOTAM issued on 19 February 2022 restricting airspace over the protest in Surrey, BC.

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Ces renseignements sont classifiés Protégé A. IL NE PEUT PAS ÊTRE DÉCLASSIFIÉ OU DISTRIBUÉ À L'EXTÉRIEUR DES DESTINATAIRES ORIGINAUX SANS LE CONSENTEMENT DE L'ASFC. Si vous avez des questions ou désirez faire un suivi de demandes de renseignements détaillés, veuillez communiquer avec le Centre des opérations frontalières au [irrelevant]

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